

Practices That Work!

Reason for starting the innovative practice

Claveria is a coastal municipality at the northern tip of Cagayan province. The problem on rampant illegal fishing with the use of fine mesh nets, electro fishing, compressors and dynamite fishing both in riverine and coastal waters continue to beset the Local Government of Claveria. Coral reefs and holdfast of rich aquatic flora were destroyed by dynamite fishing as well as people gathering corals, seaweed and fishing at the coral reefs with the aid of compressors.

Role of Implementing Organization

The local chief executive spearheaded the advocacy against illegal fishing activities in the municipality. This program encouraged the local police force, Maritime and Coast Guards, Local Government Units, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture–Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to work together to stop illegal fishing activities in the local waters of Claveria.

How it works

- Because of the ban in catching and selling fish gathered through dynamite fishing, the police force put up checkpoints on highways, and the Maritime and Coast Guards regularly patrol and monitor illegal fishing activities at the coastal waters of Claveria and adjoining coastal municipalities. The local police, the Municipal Agriculture and Fisheries, Department of Environment and Natural Resources through the directive of the local chief executive (LCE) coordinated their work in the surveillance of illegal fishers. Illegal fishing equipment were confiscated and violators were educated and given seminars by the Municipal Agricultural technicians on fisheries. Some hardheaded illegal fisherfolks were reprimanded. Checkpoints were established to monitor illegally fished coastal and riverine products.
- The Claveria Coastal Resources Management Fishery Code was launched on September 5, 2000 at the Claveria municipal hall. Prior to this, it (fishery code) was presented to the people through public hearings before it was submitted for deliberation at the Office of the Sangguniang Bayan.
- The fisherfolks headed by the members of the Barangay Fisheries & Aquatic Management Council (BFARMCs) and the municipal Fisheries & Aquatic Resource Management Council (MFARMCs) were very active in protecting their fishery resources including the

General Information

Innovative Practice Name

Mobilizing Community Support to Coastal Resource Management

Location

Claveria, Cagayan

Date Started

February 2000

Date Completed

October 30, 2000

Estimated Cost:

LGU Cost: PhP 150,000

Implementing Office Address/Tel./E-mail/Web site

Office of the Mayor
Claveria, Cagayan

Contact Person/Address/Tel./E-mail

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implementation of Policies and Guidelines at the Barangay level. BFARMC members monitor, and reprimand illegal fishing activities in the Barangay. They formulated local policies in support to the municipal guidelines pursuant to the provisions of the Republic Act 8550 (The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998). Both the Chairmen of the Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Council, and the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Council are members of the Technical Working Group of Claveria Coastal Resource Management Program.

How barriers/obstacles were overcome

- The Coastal Resource Management Program (CREMA) served as the eye opener to the coastal communities of Claveria. During the Resource Management Appraisal by the Technical Working Group, they had the chance to share and explain their purpose to the people in the area, and it was through this process that the people understood the CREMA program.
- The incumbent Mayor facilitated the active participation of the members of the Sangguniang Bayan towards the implementation of the different activities of the CREMA especially on the deliberations for the Coastal Fisheries Policy Review.
- Some local officials were also invited to the CREMA program to observe the process being undertaken.
- The LCE always updated her constituents of the development of the CREMA project and at the same time solicit their support towards the realization of a sustainable development of their coastal environment.

Details of benefits and results

- The CREMA program was included among the 6 finalists of the most outstanding coastal resource management program in the region. Three of the 6 belong to the category: with outside support and Claveria was classified under the: without outside support category.
- The conduct of Resource Management Appraisal by the Technical Working Group was maximized through evocative process using the different tools of data gathering. They also informed the communities about their purpose and what the CREMA project was all about. The members of the Technical Working Group gained support from the communities visited when the people understood the program.